

# ST. LUKE'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH 10:30 a.m.

200 11<sup>th</sup> Street E.

Lemmon, SD 57638

*We are affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).*

Richard Kanzenbach

Pastor

January 4, 2026

10:30 am

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Autumn Wiechmann

Organist

*"Jesus was the true light which gives light to every man coming into the world!"*

--- John 1:9

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the Book of Revelation those who stand righteous before God are identified as those who lived through days of evil on this earth, but have robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb. The blood of Jesus does not wash physical garments, but washes souls white, pure, spotless, sinless, before the Father in heaven. In the Lord's Supper each recipient is assured and comforted that this washing is his washing, that his sins are forgiven. By Jesus' miracle, each communicant shares in His very (His true) body and blood received in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Personal comfort abounds that by faith in the crucified Jesus, sins are forgiven and each is spotless before God!

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** Hymnal, page 15

**Hymn 125** The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away !

On page 17: **Th Kyrie** is read by the pastor.

**For the Gloria, Hymn 244** Glory Be to God the Father!

**OLD TESTAMENT:** **Isaiah 60:1-6** KJV Isaiah foresaw the day when the LORD in His mercy would take back His sinful, downtrodden people, leading them again to their homeland. ---- In Christ all Christians are restored to the homeland of heaven!

P: Arise, shine; for thy light is come!

**C: And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!**

P: For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;

**C: But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.**

P: And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,

**C: And kings to the brightness of thy rising.**

P: Lift up thine eyes round about, and see—

**C: All they gather themselves together, they come to thee.**

P: Thy sons shall come from far,

**C: And thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.**

P: Then thou shalt see, and flow together,

**C: And thine heart shall fear [shudder], and be enlarged;**

P: Because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee,

**C: The forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.**

P: The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries [*camels of one hump*] of Midian and Ephah;

**C: All they from Sheba shall come.**

P: They shall bring gold and incense!

**C: And they shall show forth the praises of the Lord!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12** Gentile (non-Jewish) Wise Men (exact number unknown) came from the East to worship the young child Jesus, the promised King. They had followed a miraculous star. How and why? Six hundred years earlier, the prophet Daniel, a Jewish exile in Babylon, had been promoted by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, as chief of wise men (Daniel 2:48). He most certainly proclaimed the Truths and Wisdom of God, regarding the coming Savior and King. Moses had written about a rising Star that would come out of Judah and Israel (Genesis 40:8-12 and Numbers 24:15-19). This Promised One would be Savior and King of Gentiles too! When a special Star appeared they were convinced of its meaning. The Wise Men brought gifts and brought their hearts to Him. Let us, who are also Gentiles, likewise honor Him!

**NICENE CREED, p. 22**

**Hymn 131** The Star Proclaims the King Is Here!!

## SERMON: JOHN 8:1-12 THE NEED FOR LIGHT!

*Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him.*

*But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

*Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”*

*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

### OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER:

#### PRAYERS

**Hymn 127** As with Gladness Men of Old Did the Guiding Star Behold!

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**VISITORS, please note that our congregation does not practice “open” communion.** Communion is an expression of oneness with the Lord and also oneness in faith and teaching with each other. Differences in Bible doctrine do separate. Therefore, we have a “close-knit” communion practice. Respectfully we ask that only members of St. Luke’s and sister CLC congregations come forward. Be assured, we are not judging your heart or your faith in Jesus. God knows the heart. For questions, please visit with the pastor. Thank you.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:

### Distribution Hymns

**130** O Jesus, King of Glory!

**308** Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace!

Benediction

**Hymn 657** Beautiful Savior!

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

1/11	10:30 Worship	9:30 Bible Class and Sunday School
1/18	10:30 Worship with HOLY COMMUNION	9:30 Bible Cl. and S.Sch.
1/25	10:30 Worship	9:30 Bible Class and Sunday School
	12:00 Potluck Fellowship Meal—All invited.	

**1:00 VOTERS ANNUAL MEETING**

**EPIPHANY FESTIVAL:** In the 200's A.D., the eastern Christian churches, that is, those in Greece, Asia Minor (Turkey today), and Syria, set aside **January 6** as the festival of Epiphany. The word "epiphany" means "to shine out, to make evident, to make manifest, to reveal." Epiphany focused on Christ the LIGHT of salvation for all the world and the early events in His life which displayed that He was that Light and Savior, true God. His birth, the visit of Gentile wise men, His baptism at age 30, His miracles beginning with changing water into wine at Cana were all part of the season. ----- "Western" Christian churches, basically Rome and those under Rome's influence—Spain, France, England, Germany, Italy—would establish December 25 as the day for celebrating Christ's birth. ----- We celebrate both.

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